

REMARKS

The first Office Action mailed January 30, 2004, considered claims 1-31, rejected claims 1-6, 9 and 16, objected to claims 7-8, 10 and 17-24, and allowed claims 11-15 and 25-31.

By this paper, claims 1-10 have been amended, but no claims have been added or cancelled. Accordingly claims 1-31 remain pending.

Claims 1-4 and 16 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of either U.S. Patent No. 6,530,085 or 6,169,879, both of which are commonly assigned to WebTV Networks, the assignee of the present application. To overcome these obviousness-type double patenting rejections, Applicants have submitted appropriate terminal disclaimers in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(b), which are enclosed herewith, for each of the aforementioned patents. Accordingly, the rejections for obviousness-type double patenting should now be withdrawn, thereby placing claims 16-24 in condition for prompt allowance.

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Cho (U.S. Patent No. 6,226,053), while claims 4-6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cho in view of Robbins (U.S. Patent No. 4,603,349) or Moriyama (U.S. Patent No. 4,864,632)¹. However, for at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejected claims are neither anticipated by nor made obvious by Cho, Moriyama or Robbins, either singly or in combination.

Each of the rejected claims includes or depends on claim 1, the only independent claim at issue². Claim 1 is directed to a cable system for interconnecting electronic devices. The claimed interconnection cable system includes a plurality of electrical conductors, male composite audio connectors, and a male video connector that is configured to be selectively adaptable for use with either a composite signal format or an S-video signal format.

As further clarified in dependent claim 3, the male video connector of the cable system can include a male S-video connector (claim 2) and an adapter having a female S-video end, opposite a male RCA end, that is configured to selectively couple with the male S-video

¹ Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicants reserve the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

² Claims 11 and 26 have been allowed and the only other independent claim (claim 16) was only rejected for judicial obviousness-type double patenting, which is now moot in view of the attached terminal disclaimer.

connector. Such a cable system is neither anticipated by nor made obvious by the prior art of record.

Cho, the primary reference, discloses a connection apparatus for adaptively connecting external input/output lines of different electrical devices. (title/abstract/summary). As described, the Cho device includes a plurality of different jacks that are configured to couple with the input and output cables or lines of different devices (Col. 1, ln. 59 thru Col. 2, ln. 44). The Cho device then utilizes an internal control unit to generate switching control signals that are used by an internal multiplexer to select appropriate input signals (e.g., luminance/chrominance), which have been received at the device and that have been separated and/or mixed, to be output. (Col. 1, ln. 59 thru Col. 2, ln. 44; Col. 3, ll. 20-53). Cho does not, however, provide or even disclose a system in which a cable or cable system is configured to be selectively adaptable for use with either composite or S-video signals. In fact Cho does not even describe the cables or lines that are being used to couple with the jacks of the device.

To clarify this distinction even further, Applicants have amended the language of claim 1 to state that the interconnection system is a cable system and that the audio and video connectors comprise male audio and video connectors.³ Accordingly, while the present embodiment is directed to a cable or cable system, having male connectors, Cho is directed to an intermediary device that has female jacks configured to couple with cables and that cannot be used to connect electrical devices, but for the assistance of cables or a cable system.

The remaining references used by the examiner were cited for the proposition that a cable can include mini-plugs (Moriyama) and that a cable can include left and right audio signal components (Robbins). These references also fail, however, to disclose, either singly or in combination with Cho, an interconnection cable system that includes male composite audio connectors, as well as a male video connector that is selectively adaptable for use with either a composite signal format or an S-video format, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and all of the corresponding dependent claims that were rejected in the last action are distinguished over the art of record.

³ Claims 2-10 have also been amended, for consistency, to clarify that the corresponding interconnection system is a cable system and that the video/audio connectors are male connectors.

Therefore, pending claims 1-31 are now presented for reconsideration and prompt allowance. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 15 day of April 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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